

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Lump Gulch III Proposed Implementation Date: June 11, 2008

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Type and Purpose of Action: Proponent would like to remove approximately 100MBF of dead and damaged ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir trees infested with mountain pine beetle through a commercial timber harvest. Harvest may include several unit totaling approximately 15 acres. Existing access through private property will be used for the transportation of rough forest products and is the responsibility of the logging contractor to acquire. Purpose of action is to generate revenue for the school trust, remove overstocked and suppressed timber before its value is lost to insect and disease or wildfire; and improve the health, vigor and productivity of the forest in the proposed project area. Slash generated from this project will be piled and burned on adjacent private lands in conjunction with an existing timber harvest.

Location: Section 36, T9N, R4W County: Lewis & Clark County

**Category (refer to ARM 36.11.447 for additional detail):**

- ☐ 1) Temporary Uses of Land with Negligible Effects
- ☐ 2) Plans and Policies
- ☐ 3) Leases and Licenses
- ☐ 4) Acquisition of Land or Interest in Land
- ☐ 5) Road Maintenance and Repair
- ☐ 6) Bridges and Culverts
- ☐ 7) Crossing Class 3 Streams
- ☐ 8) Temporary Road Use Permits
- ☐ 9) Road Closure
- ☐ 10) Material Stockpiles
- ☐ 11) Backfilling
- ☐ 12) Gathering Forest Products for Personal Use
- ☐ 13) Regeneration
- ☐ 14) Nursery Operations
- ☐ 15) Water Wells
- ☐ 16) Herbicides and Pesticides
- ☐ 17) Other Hazardous Materials
- ☐ 18) Fences
- ☐ 19) Waterlines
- ☐ 20) Removal of Small Trees
- ☐ 21) Removal of Hazardous Trees
- ☐ 22) Cone Collection
- ☒ 23) Timber Harvest (<100 MBF green or 500 MBF salvage)

By process of the adoption of the Administrative Rules for Forest Management on February 27, 2003, pursuant to ARM 36.2.523(5)(a), the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division, has adopted the above categorical exclusions for activities conducted on state forest lands. "Categorical Exclusion" refers to a type of action that does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS unless extraordinary circumstances occur (ARM 36.2.522(5)).

### Extraordinary Circumstances:

Will the proposed action affect one or more of the following resources or situations in the project area? If the resource or situation is present, but project design avoids potential adverse effects on the resource, the answer is "no". One "Yes" answer indicates that Categorical Exclusion is not appropriate for the project, and an EA or EIS must be conducted.

| YES                      | NO                                  |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) Sites with high erosion risk.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2) Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 3) Municipal watersheds.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4) The SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5) State natural area.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 6) Native American religious and cultural sites.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7) Archaeological sites.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 8) Historic properties and areas.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 9) Several related projects that individually may be subject to categorical exclusion but that may occur at the same time or in the same geographic area. Such related actions may be subject to environmental review even if they are not individually subject to review. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10) Violations of any applicable state or federal laws or regulations.   |

The project listed above meets the definition of the indicated categorical exclusion, including specified conditions and extraordinary circumstances, as provided in the Administrative Rules for Forest Management (ARM 36.11.447).

**Note:** A Checklist Environmental Assessment was conducted as part of the Lump Gulch II Timber Permit on December 15, 2004 for this section. In addition, a Record of Decision by the Bureau of Land Management for the Clancy-Unionville Vegetation Manipulation Project was approved on October 31, 2000 for timber harvesting activities on adjacent federal lands. In either case no adverse effects to the environment were expected by the

implementation of those projects. Although granitic soils are present, the implementation of BMP's should reduce impacts to soil. Due to the relatively small scope of the proposed Lump Gulch III Timber Permit, No adverse effects to the natural environment are anticipated.

Prepared by: Shawn Morgan, Helena Unit Forester June 12, 2008  
(Name) (Date)

Decision by: D.J. Bakken Helena Unit Mngr.  
(Name) (Title)

/s/ Darrel J. Bakken 6/16/2008  
(Signature) (Date)